

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 222318

21 11

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 /125 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:RAMACCALLUM:RLW

APPROVED BY EA:RLSNEIDER

EA/ANP:JCDORRANCE

PM/ISO:COL. FLEMINGS

EA/RA:HISOM

DOD/ISA:RADM. BIGLEY

DOD/JCS-J5:BGH HANKET

DOD/JCSJ33:COL. ATKINSON

WHITE HOUSE - GENERAL SCOWCROFT

S/S:MR. MILLER

DOD/ISA:CDR. PAPE

----- 089668

R 100215Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

CNO WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

DOD/ISA WASHDC

COMSEVENTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, AS, US

SUBJECT: KANGAROO I

REF: USDAO/CANBERRA DTG 140730Z SEPTEMBER

1. ON OCTOBER 10 DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 222318

CONCERNING THE SUBJECT EXERCISE WHICH IS QUOTED IN FULL.

QUOTE: NOTE NO. 422/73

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR A MARINE DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD AT THE SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA IN QUEENSLAND.

IT IS RECALLED THAT PLANNING FOR THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN CONTINUING FOR SEVERAL YEARS BETWEEN THE SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WITHOUT COMMITMENT BY EITHER GOVERNMENT.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NOW PROPOSES THAT THE DEMONSTRATION BE REPLACED BY A LARGE COMBINED EXERCISE INVOLVING THE ARMED FORCES OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES. THE EXERCISE, TO BE CALLED "KANGAROO I", WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MAY/JUNE 1974 AT THE SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA. NEW ZEALAND WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE EARLIER

PLANNING DISCUSSIONS BUT IT HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMBINED EXERCISE.

FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE EXERCISE REMAIN TO BE CLARIFIED AND AN APPROPRIATE SCENARIO HAS YET TO BE DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, AT THE SERVICES PLANNING LEVEL, THE PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE COMBINED EXERCISE COULD CONSIST OF:

(A) H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE WITH FIGHTER GROUND ATTACK AIRCRAFT, H.M.A.S. SUPPLY, TWO DESTROYERS, THREE OR FOUR HEAVY LANDING CRAFT AND ONE CLEARANCE DIVING TEAM;

(B) FIXED AND ROTARY WING AIR SUPPORT, GROUND ATTACK FIGHTERS WITH FORWARD AIR CONTROLLERS, AND POSSIBLY F-111 STRIKE AIRCRAFT;

(C) A BATTALION GROUP WITH NECESSARY LOGISTIC SUPPORT.

THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 222318

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. OCTOBER 4, 1973. END QUOTE.

2. CONVERSATION WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF (WILLIAMS)
REVEALED THAT AUSTRALIAN UNDERSTANDING AT SERVICES LEVEL IS THAT US IS CONSIDERING PROVIDING ABOUT 3,000 PERSONNEL INCLUDING A MARINE BATTALION, FIVE TANKS, ARTILLERY, SIXTEEN TRACKED LANDING VEHICLES, ENGINEERS, HELICOPTERS

AND A BEACH UNIT FROM AN "AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP: OF FOUR SHIPS, POSSIBLY ACCOMPANIED BY TWO DESTROYERS AND A TANKER. THIS COMPOSITION OF US FORCES IS ACCEPTABLE TO STATE AND DEFENSE.

3. WILLIAMS ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS VIEW OF GOA THAT ONCE APPROVAL IS RECEIVED AT THE "POLITICAL LEVEL" FURTHER PREPARATION FOR THE EXERCISE SHOULD THEN MOVE TO "MILITARY SERVICE LEVEL." HE ALSO STATED THAT IT WAS GOA INTENTION THAT THE EXERCISE BE SIMPLY DESCRIBED AS A JOINT AUSTRALIAN/US/NZ EXERCISE AND NOT BE SPECIFICALLY TIED TO ANZUS PACT PER SE. WILLIAMS ADMITTED THAT MOST PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA PROBABLY WOULD IN FACT VIEW THE EXERCISE AS PART OF OVERALL "ANZUS RELATIONSHIP." THE RESERVATION CONCERNING ANZUS IS PROBABLY DUE TO CONCERN OVER TREATY COMMITMENTS PER SE, ESPECIALLY IN THE ALP LEFT.

4. BELIEVE THAT DIFFERENCE CITED IN REFTTEL BETWEEN "PLANNING BY THE US AND AUSTRALIAN SERVICES IS WELL ADVANCED" AND "EXPLORATORY STAFF DISCUSSIONS" MAY BE

LARGELY SEMANTIC. STATE AND DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF STATUS OF PLANNING AT BOTH WASHINGTON AND CINCPAC LEVELS.

5. WITH REGARD TO IMPACT OF KANGAROO I ON FUTURE SEATO EXERCISES, EMBASSY CONCERN IS NOTED. WHILE GOA HAS MADE CLEAR ITS DESIRE TO DE-EMPHASIZE MILITARY ASPECTS OF SEATO IN GENERAL, IT HAS NOT INDICATED IT WOULD REFUSE PARTICIPATE IN ALL FUTURE SEATO EXERCISES. COUNCIL MINISTERS MEETING IN NEW YORK SEPT. 28 APPROVED RECOMMENDATION AGREED TO IN ADVANCE BY ALL SEATO MEMBERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 222318

THAT 1) FUTURE EXERCISE PATTERN WOULD INCLUDE MARITIME EXERCISES, SEMINARS AND COMMAND POST EXERCISES IN UNEXCEPTIONABLE LOCATIONS AND SCENARIOS, 2) FREQUENCY OF EXERCISES WOULD BE DETERMINED BY MILITARY ADVISERS, AND 3) AIM OF EXERCISES WOULD BE FOR IMPROVING JOINT OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES AS WELL AS CAPABILITIES IN FIELD OF SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT. IT IS OUR PRESENT UNDERSTANDING THAT WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY FUTURE SEATO MILITARY EXERCISES WILL BE SCHEDULED LESS FREQUENTLY THAN IN PAST, GOA WOULD BE WILLING PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISES IT DETERMINES ARE IN "UNEXCEPTIONABLE" LOCATIONS AND SCENARIOS, I.E. NOT DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT PEKING OR HANOI. AND WE STILL ENTERTAIN POSSIBILITY THAT PX-49 (SEATO FALL 1973 MARITIME EXERCISE WHICH WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF JULY GOA DECISION TO WITHDRAW) COULD BE RESCHEDULED IN REVISED

FORMAT. WE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT REGARDING POSSIBLE IMPACT OF KANGAROO I ON THE RAN'S CAPABILITY TO FINANCE FUTURE SEATO EXERCISES, AND IF YOU CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY RAISE THE QUESTION WITH GOA. WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE A MAJOR ISSUE OF THIS MATTER; WE ARE PREPARED TO PROCEED WITH KANGAROO; BUT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAXIMIZE LIKELIHOOD OF AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE SEATO EXERCISES.

6. ASSUME REFTEL WAS INTENDED TO BE EMBASSY RATHER THAN DAO MESSAGE GIVEN ADDRESSEES, FORMAT AND SUBSTANCE.

7. DEFENSE CONCURS. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY PLANS, KANGAROO 1
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE222318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAMACCALLUM:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731142/aaaabejk.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USDAO/CANBERRA DTG 140730Z SEPTEMBER
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <17-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <06 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KANGAROO I
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, AS, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005